

Amendments to the Drawings

In Figure 1A, numeral 12 has been relocated to more clearly show the element.

In Figure 1B, numeral 12 has been removed.

In Figure 2, numeral 12 has been removed. Numerals 200 and 202 have been added to point out the elements.

In Figure 3, numeral 12 has been removed and numeral 10 and 22 have been added to point out the elements.

In Figure 4, numeral 12 has been relocated to more clearly point out the element.

In Figure 8, numeral 12 has been removed. Elements 100, 102, 104 and 106 have been added. Support for these elements is found in the claims and on page 7, lines 12-17.

Remarks

Applicants thank the Office for the attention accorded the present Application in the November 21, 2005 Office Action. In that Action, Claims 1-50 were pending. Claims 1-10, 12, 21, 27-35, 37 and 45-47 were rejected. Claims 11, 13-19, 24-26, 36, 38-44, and 48-50 were objected to, but indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. Reexamination and reconsideration of pending claims 1-50 is respectfully requested. In addition new independent Claim 51 and dependent Claims 52-56 have been added.

The Examiner rejected Claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2,759,594 issued to Kleboe (hereinafter "Kleboe"). Such rejections are traversed as follows. As amended, Claim 22 clarifies that Applicant's belt tension assemble comprises a *roller support rod for movably connecting said roller support to said cantilevered deck*, and a *roller support rod spring between said roller support rod and said cantilevered deck*. Neither of these limitations are shown or suggested by Kloebe. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 23, which includes the limitations of Claim 22, is allowable for the same reason.

The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-10, 12, 20, 27-35, 37 and 45-47 as obvious over United States Patent No. 6,811,018 issued to Cotter *et al.* in view of Kleboe. Such rejections are traversed as follows. It is, again, respectfully submitted that neither Cotter *et al.* nor Kleboe disclose Applicant's *cantilevered conveying belt* or Applicant's *cantilevered frame*. This argument was previously made by Applicant in the previous Office Action. In response to that argument, the Office stated:

"As is illustrated in Fig. 8 of Cotter *et al.*, the conveyor frame 210 is cantilevered out from the main conveyor 212. Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: Tenth Edition defines cantilever as "a projecting beam or member supported at only one end." The frame 210 illustrated in Fig. 8 appears to fit within this definition because it is supported only along the angled end of the frame."

It is respectfully submitted that, even using the definition provided by the earlier Office Action, Cotter *et al.* does not disclose a cantilevered conveyor. In particular, Cotter *et al.*'s conveyors

are formed by a supported roller at one end and a supported roller at the opposite end. For example, Cotter *et al.* recites:

“First sidewall 216 receives or mounts a shaft end of a plurality of rollers 222, while angled frame portion 220 and second sidewall 218 receive or mount the opposite shaft end of rollers 222....” (Column 10, lines 30-33).

That is Cotter *et al.*, for each conveyor, uses a plurality of rollers, which are supported at both sides. Cotter *et al.*’s Fig. 12 further illustrates Cotter *et al.*’s use of support at both ends of the conveyor without a cantilevered frame.

The Examiner’s argument that “frame 210 illustrated in Fig. 8 appears to fit within [Webster Dictionary’s definition of cantilevered] because it is supported only along the angled end of the frame” is noted. Applicants, however, respectfully disagree. Cotter *et al.*’s Figure 8 does not show a cantilevered frame supported, rather it only shows that “[a]ngled conveyor section 214 provides an angled mating edge along frame portion 220” (column 10, lines 34-35). There is no showing or suggestion of a cantilevered frame, or any indication that the angled conveyor section is supported on one side. Cotter *et al.* simply mate “to provide an angled conveying surface at a side of transport path 212” (column 10, lines 35-36).

Cotter *et al.* also does not teach the requisite limitations of the claimed invention or achieve what the claimed invention achieves, e.g., the quick change of belts. For example, to change Cotter *et al.*’s interior belts, Cotter *et al.*’s conveying belt must be disassembled and other belts must be removed. Applicant’s invention does not require such disassembly or belt removal because of, for example, Applicant’s *cantilevered frame* and *cantilevered deck*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present invention patentability distinguish over the prior art.

New Claims 51-56 have been added directed to the cantilevered conveying belt apart from the conveying system, for example, apart from the conveying system of Claim 1. Applicants submit that support for the newly added claims is found, for example, in Claim 13, and Figure 2 and Figure 3 (and the description thereof).

Applicants submit that new Claims 51-56 are allowable for the same reasons given above. In particular, Cotter *et al.*'s deck is made up of rollers supported at both ends and is thus not, cantilevered, nor does Cotter *et al.* teach a cantilevered frame. Applicant's deck and frame, however, truly are cantilevered. Also, Kleboe does not teach Applicants' *belt tension assembly* or to *attach Applicants' belt tension assembly to a cantilevered deck*.

Applicants submit that by this amendment they have placed the case in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains unresolved, Applicants' attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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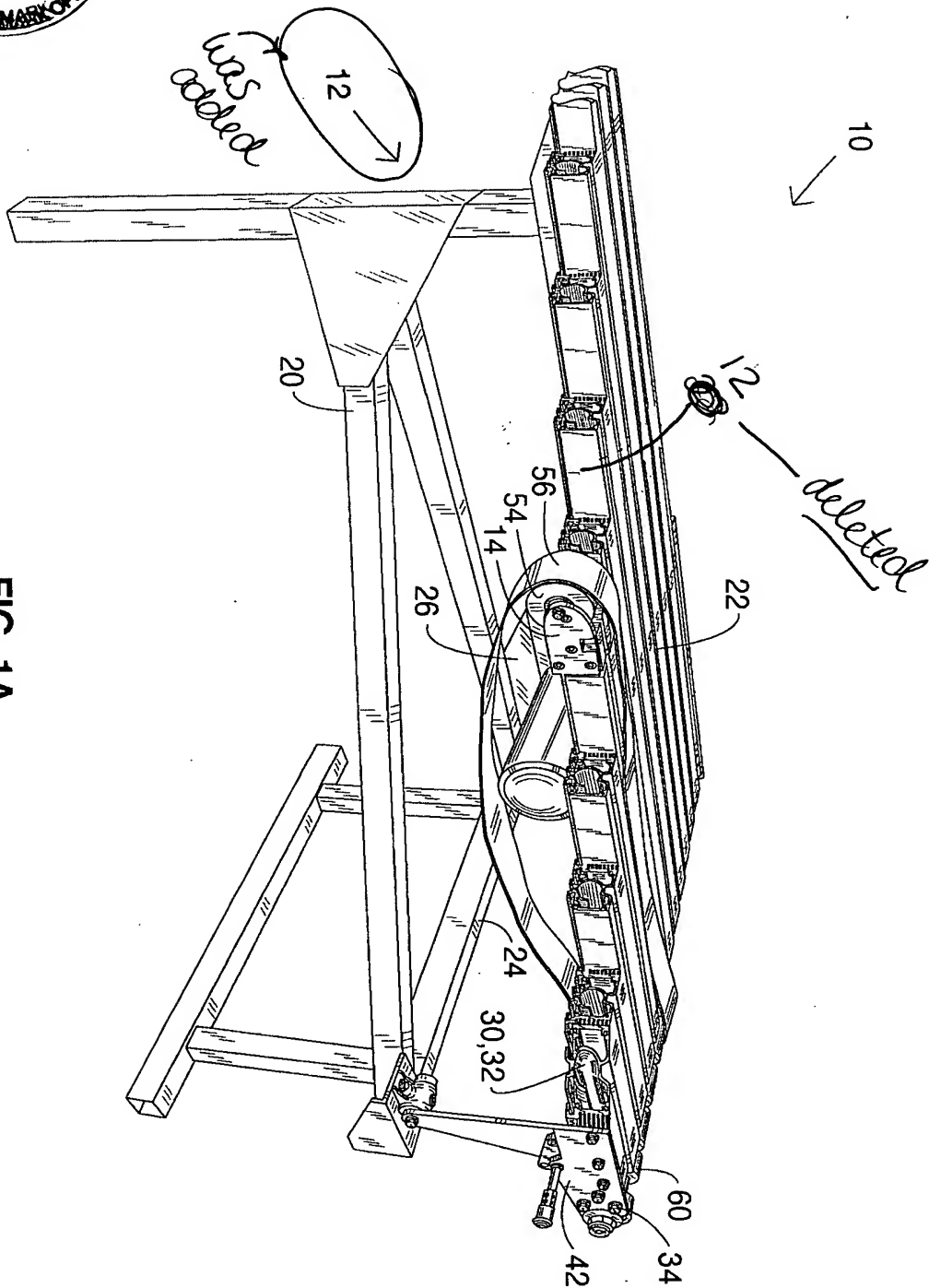
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FIG. 1A



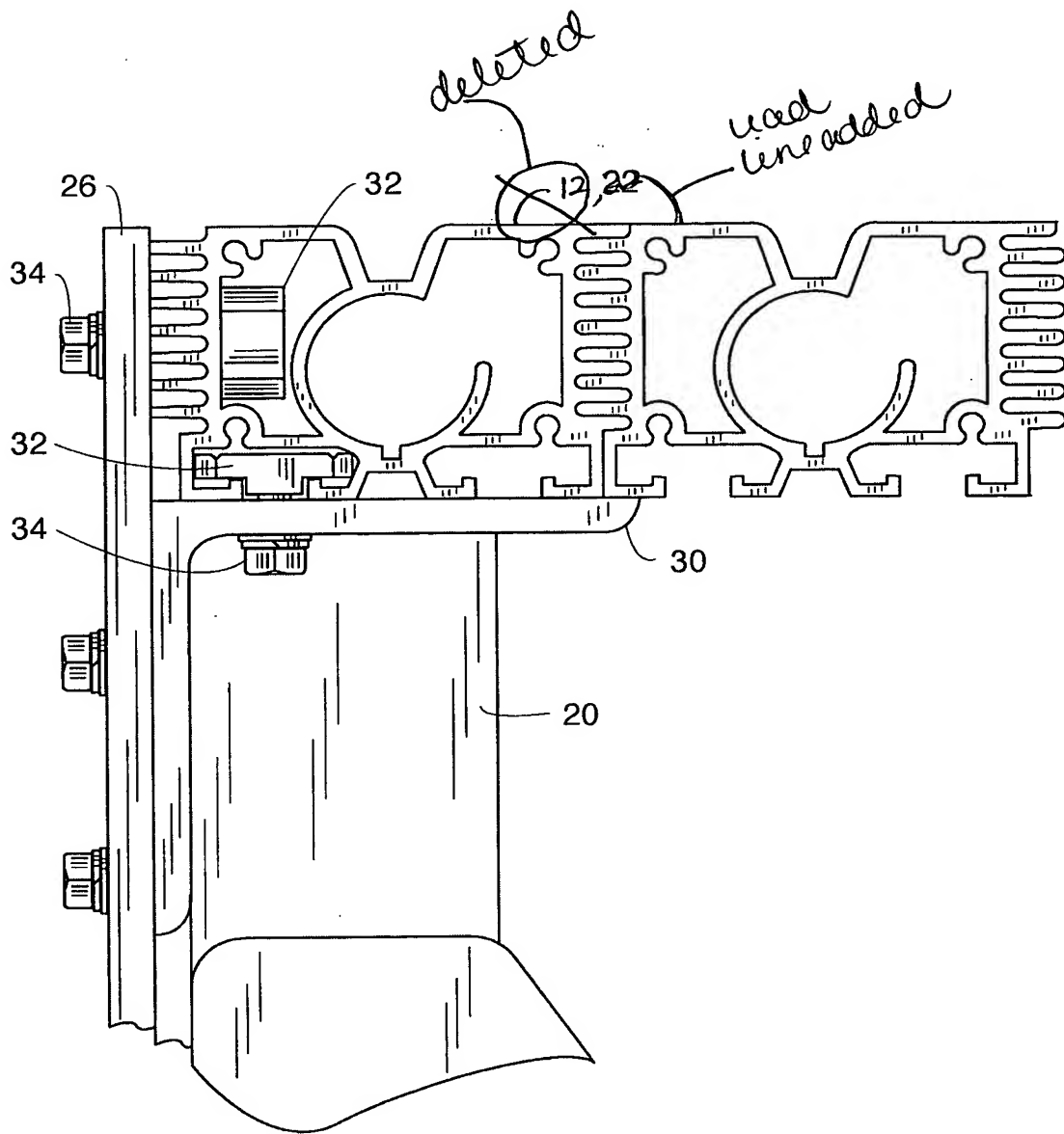
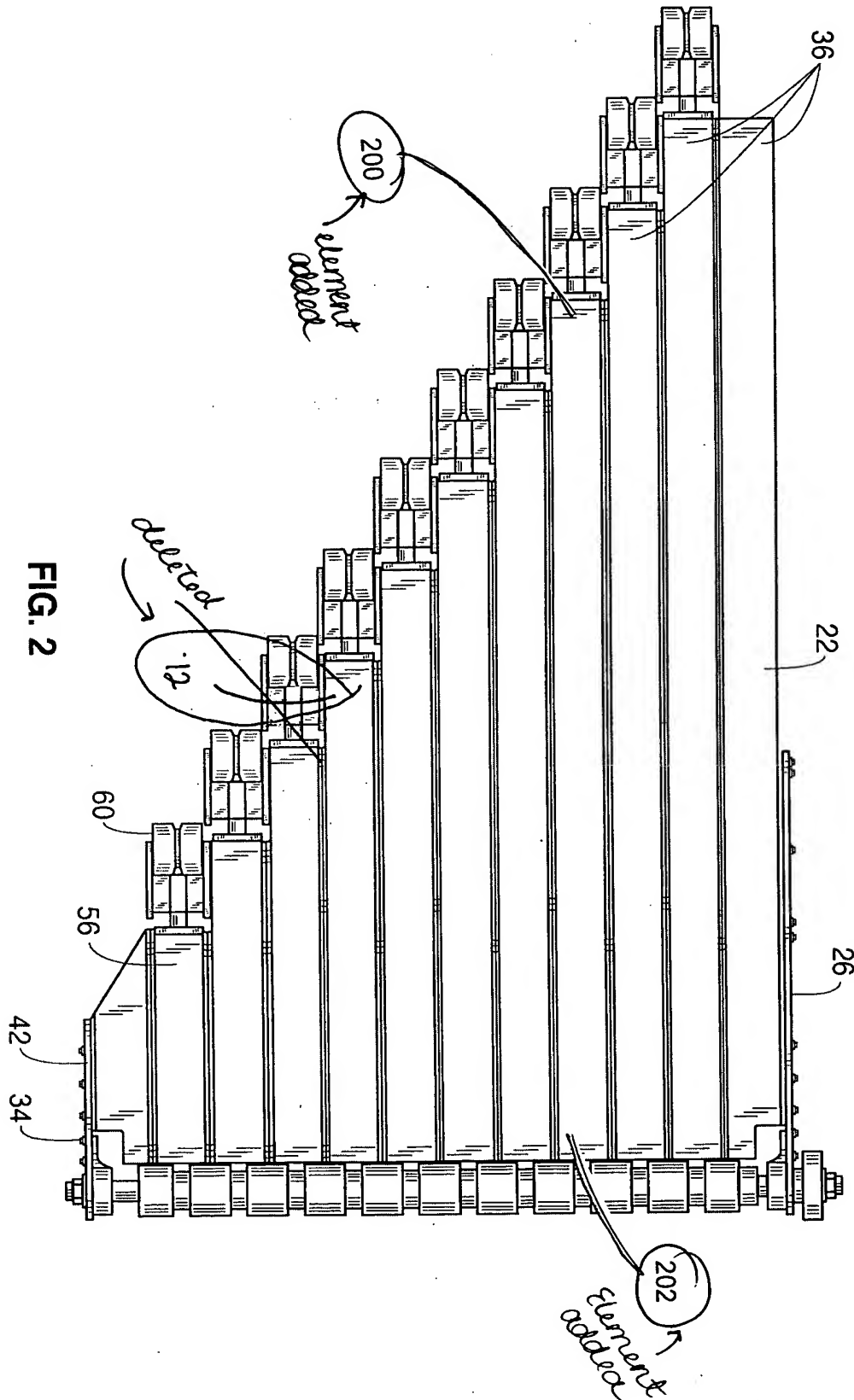


FIG. 1B



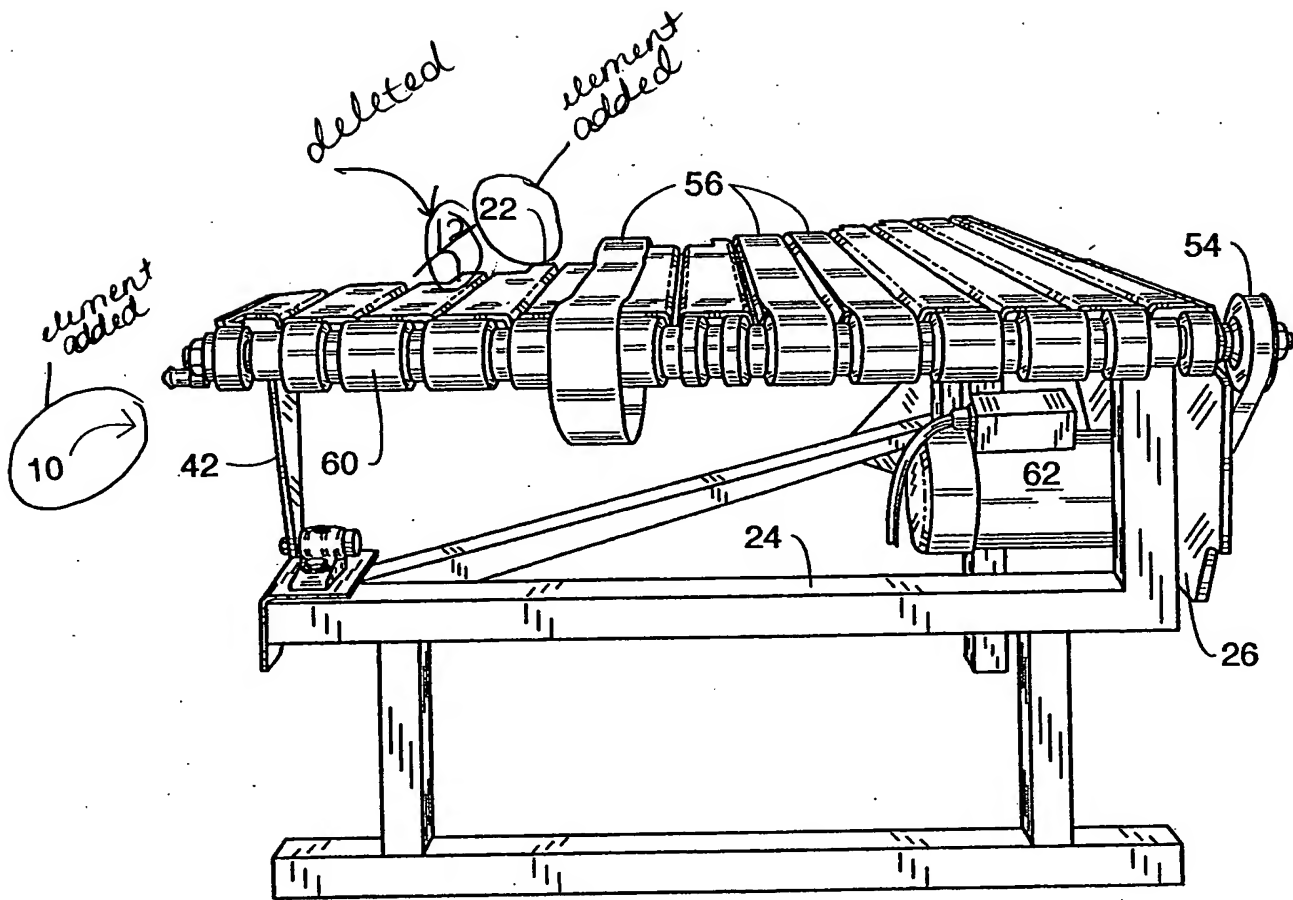


FIG. 3

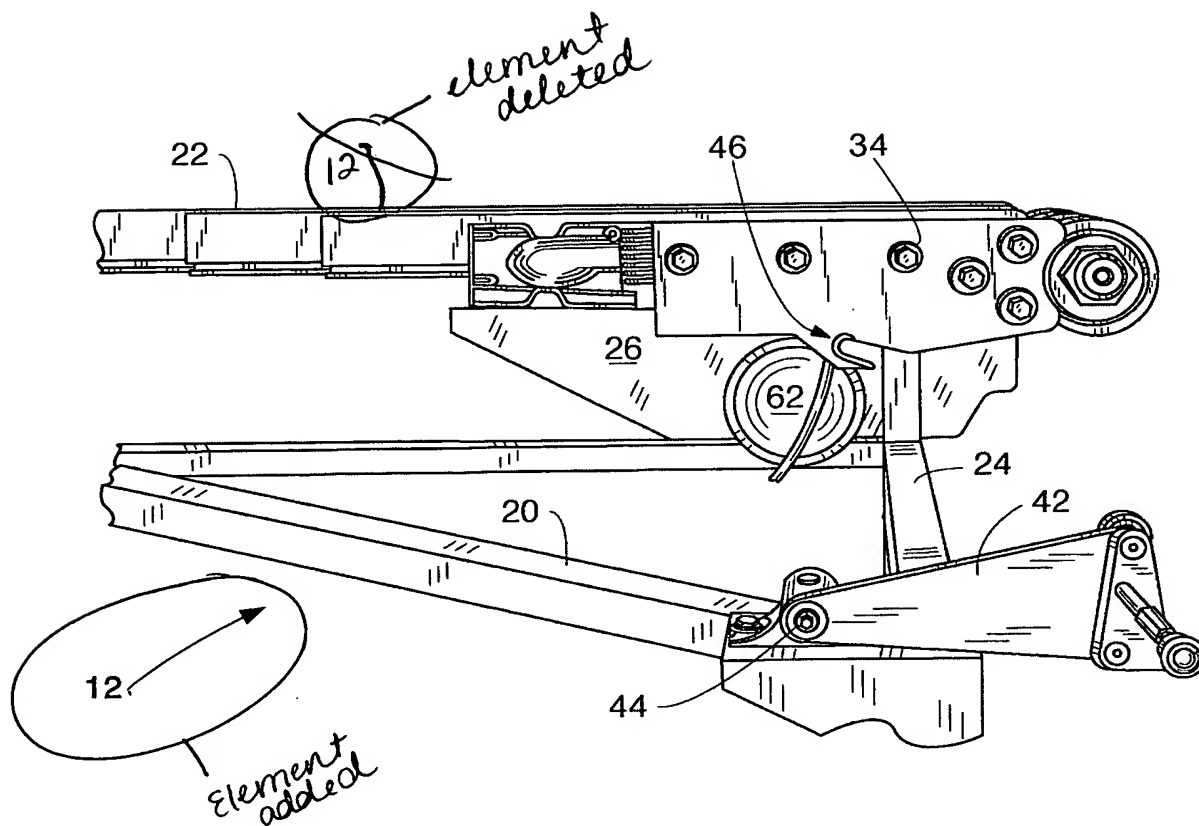


FIG. 4

